IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-3, 5, 9, 11-12, 17-20, and 25 as set forth on the following pages. Deleted material is shown by strikethrough and inserted material is underlined.

Please cancel claims 15-16 without prejudice to future presentation.

Please add new claims 27-31.

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1. (Currently Amended) A liquid pharmaceutical formulation ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of human interferon-β as an active ingredient in a concentration of up to 25 x 10^6 U/ml and a buffer ~~for buffering~~ which buffers in a pH range of 5 to 8~~, with the proviso that the formulation does not contain human serum albumin, or any acidic amino acids, arginine or glycine in amounts of between 0.3 and 5% by weight,~~ and, optionally, at least one physiologically acceptable preservative, wherein after storage for 3 months at 25°C, stability of in vitro biological activity of the formulation is at least 80% of an initial biological activity.

2. (Currently Amended) The liquid formulation according to Claim 1, ~~comprising a~~ wherein the buffer ~~for buffering~~ buffers in a pH range of 6 to 7.2.

3. (Currently Amended) A liquid formulation comprising human interferon-β as ~~the~~ an active ingredient, a buffer for buffering in a pH ~~in a~~ range of 5 to 8, and ~~at least one amino acid, with the proviso that the formulation does not comprise any acidic amino acids, arginine or glycine in amounts of between 0.3 and 5% by weight,~~ methionine, wherein after storage for 3

months at 25°C, stability of an in vitro biological activity of the formulation is at least 80% of an initial biological activity.

4. (Previously Amended) The formulation according to Claim 1, wherein the interferon-β is a glycosylated interferon-β.

5. (Currently Amended) The formulation according to Claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the interferon-β is recombinantly produced in CHO cells.

6. (Previously Amended) The formulation according to Claim 1, wherein the buffer is in a concentration of 10 mmol/l to 1 mol/l.

7. (Previously Amended) The formulation according to Claim 1, wherein the buffer is selected from the group consisting of a phosphate, a citrate and an acetate buffer, and a combination thereof.

8. (Previously Amended) The formulation according to Claim 7, wherein the buffer comprises a phosphate/citrate buffer.

9. (Currently Amended) The formulation according to Claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein the pH is between 6 and 7.2.

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10. (Previously Amended) The formulation according to Claim 3, wherein the formulation does not contain human serum albumin.

11. (Currently Amended) The formulation according to Claim ~~1~~, 3, wherein the active ingredient is free from human or animal polypeptides.

12. (Currently Amended) The formulation according to Claim ~~1~~, 3, wherein the formula is free from surfactants.

13. (Previously Amended) The formulation according to Claim 1, wherein after storage of the formulation for 6 months at 25°C, the formulation is chemically stable.

14. (Previously Amended) The formulation according to Claim 1, wherein after storage of the formulation for 6 months at 25°C, the formulation is physically stable.

15-16. Canceled.

17. (Currently Amended) The formulation according to Claim ~~16~~, 3, wherein the methionine is present in a concentration of 0.1 to 4 mmol/l.

18. (Currently Amended) The formulation according to Claim ~~1~~, 3, further

comprising an ingredient for adjusting tonicity.

19. (Currently Amended) The formulation according to Claim ~~1~~, 3, comprising a thickener for increasing viscosity.

20. (Currently Amended) The formulation according to Claim ~~1~~, 3, further containing at least one physiologically acceptable preservative.

21. (Previously Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a liquid formulation according to Claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (Previously Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 21 in a form suitable for oral, parenteral or ophthalmological administration.

23. (Previously Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 21, wherein the composition is in the form of a unit containing 1 to 25 x 10^6 IU of interferon-β.

24. Canceled.

25. (Currently Amended) A process for stabilizing a liquid formulation comprising human interferon-β as ~~the~~ an active ingredient and a buffer for buffering in a pH range of 5 to 8,

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said process comprising adding a stabilizing amount of ~~at least one amino acid, provided that the amino acid is not an acidic amino acid, arginine or glycine in an amount of between 0.3 to 5% by weight of the formulation,~~ methionine, with the further proviso that human serum albumin is not present in the formulation.

26. (Previously Amended) The process according to Claim 25, wherein the stabilizing comprises increasing at least one of the long-term stability of the in vitro biological activity, the chemical stability and the physical stability of the formulation.

27. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a liquid formulation according to Claim 3, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

28. (New) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 27 in a form suitable for oral, parenteral or ophthalmological administration.

29. (New) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 27, wherein the composition is in the form of a unit containing 1 to 25 x 10^6 IU of interferon-β.

30. (New) The liquid pharmaceutical formulation of claim 1, wherein the biological activity is measured by inhibiting cytopathic effect.

31. (New) The liquid formulation of claim 3, wherein the biological activity is measured by inhibiting cytopathic effect.